

excitement about the Popish Plot and the exclusion bill—many plays were acted in which the party principles and the party leaders of the day were assailed or defended.

But under James II and William III the government was too strong to permit this, and playwrights had to limit themselves to the representation of social types and social phenomena. It is in order to reproduce that side of the life of the age that Macaulay employed the drama. It is therefore to two plays of Shadwell's, *The Squire of Alsatia*¹ and *The Scourers*, that he refers as authorities when he is describing the low life in London, and to Farquhar's *Beaux' Stratagem* as evidence that highwaymen could mix in good society.² He goes to Farquhar's *Trip to the Jubilee* when he wants to show the feeling of the soldiers about the disbanding of the army in 1698,³ and to Shadwell's *Volunteers* to prove that in 1691 it became the fashion to serve for a campaign in the army. The last may be quoted as an example.

To volunteer for Flanders became the rage among the fine gentlemen who combed their flowing wigs and exchanged their richly perfumed snuffs at the Saint James's Coffeehouse. William's headquarters were enlivened by a crowd of splendid equipages and by a rapid succession of sumptuous banquets. For among the highborn and highspirited youths who repaired to his

standard were
 some who, though quite willing to face a
 battery, were
 not at all disposed to deny themselves the
 luxuries with
 which they had been surrounded in Soho
 Square. In
 a few months Shadwell brought these valiant
 fops and
 epicures on the stage. The town was made
 merry with
 the character of a courageous but prodigal
 and effemi-
 nate coxcomb, who is impatient to cross
 swords with

¹l_r 352-6 (iii).

²I, 373, n. 2 (iii).

³VI, **2747**, ⁿ- (xxiii).